

that should be supported. At the same time, I must emphasize that some of the bill's projects and programmatic proposals raise serious questions and, in some circles, strong opposition. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues and the administration to ensure that a WRDA 98 can move swiftly through the Congress and become law before the year's end

IN RECOGNITION OF FOOD
ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Food Allergy Awareness Week.

My colleagues, 5 to 8 million Americans suffer from food allergies. Five percent of all children are food allergic and hundreds of Americans die every year from food allergies.

And the number of food allergy sufferers is increasing. Indeed among children, allergy to nuts has skyrocketed in just the last twenty years alone.

Indeed, I have spoken to many constituents—young and old alike—who have shared with me their terrible experiences with allergies. I will never forget hearing the harrowing tale of a five year old rushed to the hospital in anaphylactic shock after inadvertently eating a nut.

Tragically, there is no cure for food allergies. That is why it is so critical that we invest more resources in allergy research and prevention programs.

As a member of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds the National Institutes of Health, I will be working hard with my colleagues this year to increase funding for biomedical research so that we can find a cure for food allergies. We must also invest more in public awareness and prevention programs at the CDC and FDA so that restaurants and food processors become more sensitive to the health needs of their consumers and customers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to address this serious health problem so that we can find a cure for allergies in our lifetimes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during Roll Call Vote 146, I voted aye believing that I was supporting Congresswoman Roukema's amendment #19 when in fact the vote was on Congressman Leach's amendment that I opposed. Please let the record reflect that I intended to vote no on Congressman Leach's amendment (Roll Call Vote 146), and aye on Congresswoman Roukema's amendment #19 (Roll Call Vote 147).

TEACHER INVESTMENT AND
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the Teacher Investment and Enhancement Act (TIE Act) along with my colleagues Steve Horn, Zoe Lofgren and Ron Paul to encourage secondary teachers to go back and take college courses in their fields of teaching.

While it is important to know how to teach, it is equally if not more important to know what you are teaching. This was proven, unfortunately, with the disappointing outcome of U.S. 12th graders in the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS). Our 12th graders out-performed only two countries—Cyprus and South Africa—out of 21 countries in math and science. Education Secretary Richard Riley attributed this to the fact that "too many science and math teachers are teaching out-of-field."

The TIE Act would increase the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit for tuition expenses for the continuing education of secondary teachers in their fields of teaching.

We need to ensure teachers are well-educated. How can we expect our children to learn a subject if their teachers are not knowledgeable in the subjects themselves? We simply cannot. Offering more education opportunities for our teachers is an investment in our children and one we cannot afford not to take. I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation and work for its passage.

RATIFY THE COMPREHENSIVE
TEST BAN TREATY

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, in light of the appalling underground nuclear testing in India, I submit the following editorial "What did We Tell You" written by former Senator Mark O. Hatfield and former Representative Mike Kopetski. I would like to join my former colleagues in urging the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

WHAT DID WE TELL YOU?

INDIA'S TESTS OF NUCLEAR BOMBS PROVE THE
NEED FOR TEST BAN TREATY

(By Mark O. Hatfield and Michael J. Kopetski)

The U.S. Senate has an historic opportunity to help shut the door on the most threatening menace to Americans: the risk of a renewed nuclear weapons arms race with Russia and China, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This lingering danger was dramatically illustrated on Monday when India conducted three nuclear tests at its Pokhra test site.

These tests are certain to alarm neighboring Pakistan and China, both of whom possess nuclear weapons of their own, and heighten tensions in this volatile region of the world. In order to reduce these risks, the Senate has the responsibility to promptly consider and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Forty years ago this month, President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the value of stopping nuclear testing by initiating formal discussions with the Soviets for a "discontinuance of all nuclear weapons tests." His effort, unfortunately, fell short; but with the end of the Cold War, new opportunities and even stronger reasons for the test ban have emerged.

The collapse of America's old rival created the possibility of dramatically reducing the risk of a conflict involving nuclear weapons—a possibility that still threatens each and every American. In 1991, Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev decided to seize the opportunity to reduce the nuclear danger. They signed a new strategic nuclear arms reduction agreement. President Bush took our nuclear-armed bombers off alert and withdrew most U.S. tactical nuclear weapons. President Gorbachev instituted a temporary halt to Soviet nuclear weapons testing.

While serving the people of Oregon as members of Congress, the two of us responded by introducing legislation to match the Soviet nuclear test moratorium with a one-year U.S. testing halt. We believed that it was—and still is—vital that the United States, as the world's pre-eminent power, set an example so that we can persuade other nations to refrain from acquiring nuclear weapons, and avoid giving any nuclear power reason to resume testing.

Later, in 1992, our legislation gained broad support and was strengthened to require the initiation of negotiations on a global ban on nuclear weapon test explosions. In 1993, President Clinton extended the U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing. In 1996, negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty were completed. It has been signed by 149 nations, including all five nuclear weapon states. In September 1997, the president sent the treaty to the U.S. Senator for its approval.

The questions debated in 1992 are similar to the questions about the treaty in 1998: Can we verify the reliability of our nuclear arsenal without testing? Can we enforce a global ban on nuclear tests? What happens if America fails to act or approve the test ban?

The answer is the same as it was in 1992: A nuclear test ban is clearly in America's national security interest.

The U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal is well-tested. We have conducted 2,046 nuclear tests—more than 1,000 in the atmosphere. The United States possesses the most advanced, accurate and deadly nuclear arsenal in the world. Since the nuclear test moratorium of 1992, our nuclear weapons laboratories have maintained the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear Weapons without nuclear testing. The directors of the three national nuclear weapons laboratories, as well as leading independent nuclear weapon scientists, have determined that the remaining arsenal can be maintained through non-nuclear tests and evaluations.

Given the overwhelming nuclear capability of the United States, the Test Ban Treaty is clearly in our national interest. It would make it much more difficult for other countries with advanced nuclear weapons to produce new and even more threatening ones. It also would help stop nuclear proliferation by deterring, if not preventing, any nation from developing sophisticated nuclear weapons that can be delivered by ballistic missiles. With the Test Ban Treaty in place, no would-be violator could be confident that a test nuclear explosion could escape detection.

Failure to act on the Test Ban Treaty this year would severely undermine U.S. leadership efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. In 1995, the United States and other

nuclear nations promised to deliver on the Test Ban Treaty in exchange for the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is a good deal that must be honored.

The Test Ban Treaty enjoys broad support. If the Senate is allowed to vote on the treaty this year, it would likely win the 67 votes needed for ratification. Current and past U.S. military leaders support the treaty, including Gen. Colin Powell and three other former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The public also strongly supports a permanent end to nuclear testing. A September 1997 national opinion poll revealed that 70 percent of the public wants the Senate to approve the treaty; only 13 percent oppose it.

Unfortunately, the leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is preventing the full Senate from considering the treaty. The committee needs to be persuaded to send the Test Ban Treaty to the Senate floor.

In the interest of a safer America and a more secure world, senators who recognize the risk of nuclear proliferation and the value of the test ban must provide the leadership necessary to allow the Senate to debate and vote on the treaty this year.

The time for nuclear testing is over. The time to approve the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is now.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESTATE AND GIFT TAX RATE REDUCTION ACT

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, it's been said that only with our government are you given a "certificate at birth, a license at marriage and a bill at death." Today I am introducing the Estate and Gift Tax Rate Reduction Act which seeks to phase-down the onerous death tax. Each death tax rate will be reduced by five percentage points every year, until the highest rate bracket—55%—reaches zero in 2009. As these rates are lowered to zero, more and more families will no longer be forced to give the family savings to Uncle Sam and the family business will be saved.

One of the most compelling aspects of the American dream is to make life better for your children and loved ones. Yet, the current tax treatment of individuals and families and families at death is so onerous that when one dies, their children are many times forced to sell and turn over more than half of their inheritance just to pay the taxes. It takes place at an agonizing time for the family; when families should be grieving for a loved one, with friends and relatives, rather than spending painful hours with lawyers and bureaucrats.

By confiscating between 37% and 55%, the estate tax punishes life-long habits of savings, discourages entrepreneurship and capital formation, penalizes families, and has an enormous negative effect on other tax revenues. Americans today are living longer and enjoying their retirement. At a time when this Congress is discussing the future of Social Security, and how to personalize and modernize the system, we also need to encourage private investment. We should be encouraging people to plan for their future with retirement plans and IRAs, rather than encouraging reck-

less spending and a me-first attitude. This country was born on the promise of hope and opportunity, and by taxing families and businesses at their most agonizing time, we destroy their hope for the future.

By today's tax system, it is easier and cheaper to sell a business before death rather than try to pass it on after. More than 70% of family business and farms do not survive through the second generation. 9 out of 10 successors whose family-owned businesses failed within three years of the principal owner's death said trouble paying estate taxes contributed to the company's demise. For family owned business, this is a tax just because the business is changing ownership due to the death of an owner.

Aside from being a source of revenue, another express purpose of the estate tax was to break up large concentrations of wealth. 75 years later, however, reality suggests that rather than being an important means for promoting equal economic opportunity, the estate tax is in fact a barrier to economic advancement for people of all economic circumstances. It unduly burdens individual sacrifice to gain savings and investment, compared with consumptive uses of income. It impedes the upward mobility of labor by stifling productivity, wage growth, and employment opportunities. In effect, the death tax, which was established to redistribute wealth, hurts those it was meant to help—namely, America's working men and women. When small businesses close their doors, loyal employees lose their jobs.

The saying goes that death and taxes are the only certainties in life. I believe it is ridiculous that the government force the American people to deal with both on the same day. Families should be allowed—and encouraged—to save for future generations. I invite my colleagues to join JOHN TANNER and me in our bi-partisan effort to reduce this detrimental and cruel tax.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRFAX CITY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 2702

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 1998, the Fairfax City Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association, Local 2702, is celebrating their 20th Anniversary. No matter what the emergency is, their members are committed to providing outstanding emergency services to those in need. They are dedicated to fulfilling their organization's goals of saving lives, preserving property and the environment and ensuring the health and safety of our community.

Local 2702 was officially chartered on May 16, 1979 as a local union of the International Association of Fire Fighters. The 22 charter members were: Dennis Rubin, Larry Retzer, John Boon, Joel Hendelman, Mike Kalasanckas, John Long, Dwaine McCollum, Donald Barklage, Jr., Robert Keith Cunningham, Joseph Toy, Thomas Schwartz, Jeffery Sheriff, Joseph Bailey, George Brown, Charles Johnson, George Klumph, William

Burris, Kenneth Hill, Dennis Rust and Gary Jones.

Since their inception, they have been led by strong leadership focused on ensuring that their department has the personnel and resources to safely and efficiently perform their jobs of helping the public. Dennis Rubin, John Boon, Ken Hahn, Richard Miller, Joel Hendelman, Frank Hall, and Jay Callan have served as President. Today, President Adrian Munday leads Local 2702 in serving the needs of the City of Fairfax's 20,000 residents.

The members of local 2702 respond to an astounding 8,000 fire and emergency calls a year. That's an average of 22 calls a day, which equals to almost one call per hour.

When not answering calls for help, Local 2702's members spend countless hours in the community teaching fire prevention, CPR, and other safety courses, conducting home safety inspections, installing fire detectors, and conducting child safety seat inspections. Furthermore, they support several charities, such as: Aluminum Cans for Burned Children, Muscular Dystrophy Association's Fill The Boot Campaign, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, Fairfax Little League, Braddock Road Youth Clubs, the International Association Fire Fighter's Fallen Fire Fighter Fund, and Heros Inc.

Local 2702 also answers the call for help from other Fire Departments in need around the country during times of crises. Last year, when North Dakota was devastated by rushing waters of a terrible flood, Local 2702 spent several days running calls for many of their fire departments so their fire fighters could return to their homes to be with their families and salvage their homes. When Hurricane Andrew touched down in Homestead, Florida, Local 2702 collected clothes and helped rebuild homes in this ransacked area. After the tragic bombing of Oklahoma City, Local 2702 provided financial assistance to families with children injured by the blast.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I salute these heroes of public service. For all their extraordinary services, we owe the members of Local 2702 a debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE LANSING

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an obituary of Marjorie Lansing, which appeared in the New York Times on Monday, May 11, 1998.

Marjorie Lansing, a political scientist and sometime politician whose scholarly delineation of a gender gap in American voting patterns helped change the shape of political campaigns and spurred women into politics in the 1980s.

Ms. Lansing died on May 1 at a hospital near her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was 82 and had been a professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University. Her family said the cause was cancer.

Though Dr. Lansing was not the first to investigate women's voting patterns, the issue received little serious attention until she published the first persuasive statistical evidence that women form a distinctive voting